GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3728
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
BID FOR OPERATING STAKE IN SMALL ONSHORE BLOCKS
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in "Business Line" on January 19, 2008 captioned "GAIL eyes operating stake in small onshore blocks"; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a)& (b) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), launched in 1997, the Government of India adopted international competitive bidding system for offering acreages for exploration and production of oil & gas in the country. NELP has provided a level playing field wherein bids are invited from private and public sector companies-both Indian as well as foreign. No National Oil Company including GAIL (India) Ltd. etc. is awarded blocks on nomination basis as they have to compete with other private/public sector companies under NELP. Evaluation of bids is carried out by adopting a transparent and quantitative bid evaluation criteria. 57 blocks (29 onland consisting 9 "S" type blocks i.e. small size less than 200 sq. km. and remaining 20 A & B type onland blocks, 19 Deep water blocks and 9 Shallow water blocks) are on offer under Seventh round of NELP (NELP-VII) for exploration of oil and gas. The bids for NELP-VII are due for submission on 25th April, 2008.